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JC

PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041465-5053-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Confirmation No.: 4823
)	
Kaoru YAMAMOTO et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit: 2615
Application No.: 09/200,430)	
)	
Filed: November 27, 1998)	Examiner: C. Onuaku
)	
For: INFORMATION RECORD MEDIUM,)	
AND APPARATUS FOR AND METHOD)	
OF REPRODUCING THE SAME)	

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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was cited in an Office Action issued by the Japanese Patent Office on February 18, 2003. A copy of this Japanese Office Action and an English-language translation thereof is attached for the Examiner's consideration.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with an request for continued examination (RCE) transmittal under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and is thus being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4). Accordingly, no fees are believed to be necessary.

The following document is listed on the accompanying PTO Form 1449 and is in a language other than English.

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Publication No. Hei 9-259572. The enclosed copy of the Japanese Office Action, together with the attached English-language translation thereof, citing this document satisfies the requirement for a concise statement of relevance of this Japanese-language document. Moreover, an English-language abstract of this Japanese-language document is also enclosed to further satisfy the requirement for a concise statement of relevance.

The attached Japanese Office Action also cites Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Publication No. Hei 7-085605. Applicants respectfully submit that the attached U.S. Patent Number 6,249,641, which is listed on the concurrently filed PTO Form 1449, is equivalent to Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Publication No. Hei 7-085605.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.


Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: September 22, 2003

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